

# **PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

## **December 3, 2010**

The Public Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Chief Cox at 0730. The following members were present: Charles Schneider, Russ Trimble, Jody Smith, Scott Sanders, Don Cox, Jeff Dumermuth, Jack O'Donnell, Bret Hodne, Jason Wittgraf, Scott Wiegert, Rob Dehnert, James Sargent, Aaron Chittenden, Kurt Westhoff, Dianna Leete and Michelle McKelvogue.

### **REVIEW OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes from October 1, 2010 were accepted with no changes.

### **FACILITIES / EQUIPMENT**

No report.

### **PLANNING / OPERATIONAL UPDATES**

Councilman Schneider explained he received a request from Mr. Messerschmidt to allow an additional locking mechanism on exit doors of his financial institution, to be used following a robbery, to prevent the robber from reentering. Fire Inspector Westhoff explained, according to IFC 2006, specifically marked exit doors must open, to allow exit from a building, in one motion, such as a push/panic bar. Installing a dead bolt to be used following robbery, or anytime, would make exiting a two-step process and is not permitted in the code. No change in code is being considered. Council Schneider will follow up with Mr. Messerschmidt.

Chief O'Donnell asked the Councilmembers present to consider use of a speed camera in West Des Moines. Current staffing levels have resulted in pulling traffic officers off their assignments to answer other calls for service. The traffic camera would be located in a movable van set up in strategic locations where complaints are frequent. The speed cameras would handle on-going traffic issues and create revenue. Installing speed bumps and additional stop signs were discussed and rejected. Public Works Director Hodne discussed the comparative data he is receiving from the driver feedback signs and speed strips. No recommendation was requested today from the Councilmembers for the speed camera. The subject was brought up for consideration and informational purposes.

Chief Dumermuth reported Iowa Health is looking at increasing staffing levels. Currently one ambulance is staffed 24 hours and second ambulance is staffed 10 hours per day. The Hospital is considering staffing both vehicles 24 hours. Four additional employees will be needed to effect this change. All costs associated with this will go to the Hospital.

## **CODES / ORDINANCES**

Assistant City Attorney Wittgraf reported on the proposed changes to the After-Hours Establishment Ordinance. The Hangover closed voluntarily which currently leaves only one of these establishments open for business. The proposed changes in the ordinance include prohibiting any new after-hour establishments from opening and restricting the Hangover's ability to reopen. Language in the existing After-Hours Ordinance may also prohibit The Hangover from reopening. After discussion, councilmembers present approved the proposed changes to the ordinance and requested Wittgraf bring this forward at the next City Council Meeting.

## **COLLABORATION / PARTNERSHIP / PROGRAMS**

Chief O'Donnell reported on the progress of the Animal Control Community Committee. He explained the committee has meetings planned with the Nebraska Humane Society to discuss their fee schedule, staffing levels and space needed for the animal shelter. His staff is working on logistics to assist Urbandale with their animal control and a formal 28E Agreement with Urbandale may be forthcoming. Clive and Windsor Heights are also demonstrating a willingness to join the project. The current committee members will remain on the project and are excited to continue. Any recommendations for additional committee members should be submitted to Chief O'Donnell. Solid staffing and budget numbers are being worked through and a report will be made at the next Public Safety Committee Meeting.

## **OPEN FORUM**

Chief Cox reported the Fire Prevention Bureau is currently working on an update to the West Des Moines Fire Code. We currently adopted the 2006 International Fire Code and the update will incorporate the 2009 International Fire Code. The proposed code update will be ready for consideration early in 2011. The updated Fire Code will not be asking for 100% compliance with regard to residential sprinklers. Rehabilitation of old buildings where a sprinkler system must be installed is currently in the code with sprinkler requirements for updating these buildings is dependent upon the size of the remodel and type of occupancy use.

Chief Dumermuth reported Norwalk is currently putting an agreement together to join WestCom. There is a potential for other cities to join WestCom as Polk County will begin charging for dispatch service by 2013. Chief Dumermuth is also discussing with the WestCom Management Committee how to best assign seats on the Management Committee and Operational Board for new members.

Chief Dumermuth reported WestCom is considering several options after the Polk County Lease Radio System RFP results came in. The bid cost is \$37. per radio, per month. WestCom could upgrade its system going to a multi-site system with three towers and provide leasing service. This is still under consideration.

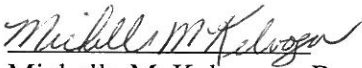
Councilman Schneider reported he received an email from Ed Ames concerning the Specified Crime Property ordinance where a landlord having multiple crimes committed at their property may have their rental license revoked. During the discussion, the types of crimes and

age of the ordinance were discussed along with the fact that the Code Enforcement Subcommittee is also working on a similar ordinance regarding nuisance violations. Wittgraf will report on the Specified Crime Property ordinance to Councilmembers Schneider and Trimble before the next Public Safety Committee Meeting.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Public Safety Committee will be Friday, February 4, 2011, 0730 AM at the Law Enforcement Center.

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 08:35.



Michelle McKelvogue, Recording Secretary

Any discussion, feedback or recommendation by committee members should not be construed or understood to be an action or decision by or for the West Des Moines City Council. Further, any recommendation the committee may make to the City Council is based on information provided to the committee at this point in time.